

Mark of the Beast

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Genesis 4:2-15 - “Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground... Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, ‘Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.’ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, ‘Where is Abel thy brother?’ And he said, ‘I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?’ And he said, ‘What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth...’ The LORD set a mark upon Cain...”

The Lord will have at the end of time a people who offer Him worship as He requires (like Abel). They will be persecuted by those who worship God with their own unbiblical standards (like Cain). The unrighteous (Cain) will persecute the righteous (Abel) over differences of worship, and a mark will be given to the unrighteous. This is exemplary of what will happen during the ‘mark of the beast/seal of God’ scenario at the end of time.

Ezekiel 8 - “The image of Jealousy... ‘Son of man, seeth thou what they do? even the **great abomination**...? Turn thee **yet again**, and thou shalt see **greater abominations**...’ creeping things... abominable beasts... idols... they say ‘The Lord seeth us not...’ ‘Turn thee **yet again**, and thou shalt see **greater abominations** that they do...’ There sat women weeping for Tammuz... ‘Turn thee **yet again**, and thou shalt see **greater abominations**...’ Behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they **worshipped the sun** toward the east.” The greatest abomination mentioned in chapter 8 of Ezekiel is worshipping the sun. The Antichrist, political and religious ruler of all living during the time of the Dark Ages in Europe, made Sunday worship the only option for all Christians—punishable by death. From there, the Reformation brought people like Zwingli, Huss, Jerome, Calvin, Luther, Knox, and many others out of the Catholic church. They started (not by their own wishes), denominations of their own which scattered all over the world. The most obvious and world renown false doctrine that the Reformer’s left to their followers was the fallacy that Sunday is “the Lord’s Day.” (See Mark 2:27-28 and Isaiah 58:13-14 to see what day is the Lord’s.)

Ezekiel 9:1-6 - God sends six very daunting Angels and one more clothed in linen with an ink horn by his side to go through the midst of Jerusalem (representative of His people) to either mark or smite those who worship there. Chapter 9 follows chapter 8...

Revelation 14:6-12 - Verse 7 says, “Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” A direct quote from the fourth, or sabbath, Commandment of Exodus 20:11 - “the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.” The third Angel in verses 9-11 speaks twice of worship. If we worship the beast and his image, receiving the mark, we will also receive of the wrath of God. In verse 11 the Bible says, “they have no **rest** day nor night, who worship the beast and his image.” Hebrews 4 is a chapter mostly dedicated to calling people to enter into the **rest** of God, “For he that is entered into His **rest**, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His” (4:10). In Matthew 11:28, Jesus makes a general call for people to “come unto” Him. He said, “I will give you **rest**.” Notice chapter 12:1, “At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn...” When noticing Hebrews 4:9 (with the seventh day sabbath being called a **rest** that remains for the people of

God), we can see that Jesus understood part of God's **rest** as keeping the sabbath. Those who worship the beast "have no **rest**..." Contrarily, in the third Angel's message of Revelation 14:12, those who worship God by keeping the Commandments and the faith of Jesus are called patient saints! Worship is the delineating factor between receiving the mark of the beast and the seal of God. We either worship like Cain or like Abel.

Now that we know what the 'beast' of Bible prophecy is (look to the study numbered 8, entitled "Antichrist Revealed"), let's read what has been written regarding the issues mentioned above:

The Pope, highest leader of the Catholic church, said on September 9th, 2007, "Without Sunday [worship] we cannot live!" <http://thetrumpet.com/index.php?q=4260.2491.0.0> He later, in the same address, said that Sunday has its origin as "the day of the dawning of creation," and was "also the church's weekly feast of creation." The Pope says all of that with no Scriptural authority, for God never dedicated Sunday as the day for a commemoration of creation. But He did set aside the seventh day sabbath for that purpose, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy... FOR in six days the Lord MADE heaven and earth... and rested the seventh day... blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Ex. 20:8, 11).

"The Pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, interpret, even divine laws..." (Lucius Ferraris - Prompta Bibliotheca, article "Papa" II, Volume VI, P.29).

"Of Course the Catholic Church claims that the change was her act... and the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters" (Letter, Oct. 28, 1895, from C.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons).

"Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. 'The Day of the Lord' (dies Dominica) was chosen, not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church's sense of its own power" (Leo Broderich, "Sentinel." Saint Catherine Catholic Church, Algonac, Michigan, Vol. 50, #22, May 21, 1995).

"The Church is above the Bible; and this transference of sabbath observance from Saturday to Sunday is proof positive of that fact. Deny the authority of the Church and you have no adequate or reasonable explanation or justification for the substitution of Sunday for Saturday in the Third - Protestant Fourth - Commandment of God" ("Sabbath Observance," The Catholic Record, London, Canada; Saturday, September 1, 1923, Vol. XLV, #2342). "The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine," by Rev. Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., copyright 1910.

"The observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the [Catholic] Church" (Monsignor Louis Segur, "Plain Talk About Protestantism of Today," P. 213, 1868).

If anything is simple to understand, it is that history repeats itself. The history of Cain and Able, the history of Daniel chapter 3, and the history of the Catholic Church (the beast of Revelation 13) will all do the same—repeat. Bible believing, law abiding, God's-character-upholding-Christians will be the focus of the future tyranny. They will be unwilling to surrender their will to common beliefs if they are contradictory to the plain, "Thus saith the Lord."

The seal of God is in the Law of God! The **SAbbath** commandment contains the name, title and territory: "The Lord thy God... made (Creator)... heaven and earth, the sea..."

Remember, God wants to spend time with you on a weekly basis. That's His character! It's part of the law He gave us (which reveals His character). "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8).

At best guess, what is the place most religious groups would call the holiest place on earth? Jerusalem? Why? Does the Bible give evidence of why?

Daniel 9:16 - “Thy city Jerusalem, Thy **holy mountain**.”

Isaiah 52:1 - “O Jerusalem, the **holy city**.” (which was on the holy mountain)

Psalms 5:7 - “I worship toward Thy **holy temple**.” (which was in the holy city)

Exodus 28:29 - “He goeth in unto the **holy place**.” (the first compartment in the holy temple)

Exodus 26:34 - “The testimony in the **most holy place**.” (the second compartment of the holy temple)

Why was it called holy?

It is called holy **because of what it contained...** the **ten commandment law of God!**

Why is THAT holy? **Where** does it SAY so? It only uses the word “**holy**” it **once**... right in the middle—the same place God commands to spend a weekly time of rest with His human creatures to build a **holy** relationship.

Exodus 20:8 - “Remember the **sabbath** day, to keep it **holy**...”